



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 21, 2010

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### **SECURITY GUARD FOR NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SHOOTING AND KILLING HER HUSBAND**

United States Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today that Mozella Jones, 44, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced to 20 years in prison by the Honorable Judge Gregory Jackson in D.C. Superior Court, in connection with the February 1, 2009, shooting death of her husband, Kerry Jackson. On March 23, 2010, a Superior Court jury convicted Jones of second degree murder while armed and various weapons offenses.

According to the government's evidence at trial, on February 1, 2009, Jones and Jackson were living in a townhouse at 1505 Tubman Road, S.E. Jones was employed as a security guard at the National Gallery of Art, and worked a night job for Admiral Security. At about 2:50 a.m., Jones was at her night job when her next-door-neighbor called to report that Jones' 5-year old grandson had wandered out of the house and come to the neighbors' house. The neighbors said that the boy could spend the night with them, but Jones insisted on coming home.

Meanwhile, the boy had activated Jones' security alarm when he left the house, which brought the police to the scene. The police went to the scene, and found the house empty. One of the neighbors brought a telephone to one of the police officers, who spoke with the defendant. The officer testified that the defendant sounded angry. After the neighbor went back inside, a man approached the officers and identified himself as Kerry Jackson. After he went in the house, one of the officers left and one remained on the scene.

The neighbors heard Jackson in the house and telephoned him to tell him about the boy. Jackson went to pick up the boy, and complained to the neighbors that Jones had called him on his cell phone and chewed him out about the boy. In a tired voice, Jackson told the neighbors that if Jones confronted him, he would leave. He then took the boy home, leaving out of the back door of the neighbors' townhouse.

As Jackson was picking up the boy at the neighbors, the police officer who had remained outside saw a car speed down Tubman Road, then slow down as it approached the officer's cruiser. The car then

turned the corner and headed for the parking lot in the rear of 1505 Tubman Road. The neighbors testified that they saw the defendant race into the parking lot, quickly get out of the car and slam the door in a rage. One of the neighbors heard the defendant begin berating Mr. Jackson as they went into the townhouse. The neighbors heard nothing more until they heard a “boom-boom” 20 or 30 minutes later.

At about 3:40 a.m., the defendant called 911 to tell police that there had been a shooting in her house. The defendant was asked by the operator who shot the victim – she admitted that she did so, but said nothing to the operator about the circumstances of the shooting. The police arrived shortly thereafter and found Kerry Jackson lying in a pool of blood on the third floor. He had no weapons with him and the town house was not disturbed in any way. Police found no evidence of any struggle. The police found a revolver under a pillow on the second floor.

The autopsy of the decedent revealed a single gunshot wound to the chest. It also revealed cut and stab wound on his neck and right arm. The medical examiner testified that the cut and stab wounds were inflicted at about the same time that the gun shot wound was inflicted.

The defendant took the stand and claimed to be the victim of extensive domestic abuse. The defendant further claimed that on the night of the shooting, Mr. Jackson had thrown her around in the bedroom and threatened to kill her. He then went downstairs and she went to the third floor, where she retrieved and loaded her revolver. The defendant testified that Jackson then came up to the third floor, shouting “wall shakingly loud,” went to a desk, grabbed a pair of scissors and threatened to kill her. The defendant testified that she was in fear for her life and that of her grandson, and she shot him once. Physical evidence on the scene contradicted the defendant’s account, and the jury deliberated less than five hours before reaching its verdict convicting defendant on all counts.

In announcing the sentence U.S. Attorney Machen praised the MPD investigative team that worked this case, including lead detective Jim Broadbent, assisting detective Al Batton, Lead Evidence Technician John Holder and assisting technicians James Holder, Jay Gregory and George Klein. U.S. Attorney Machen also praised patrol officers Thomas Barksdale and David Lack, who responded to the burglar alarm and Officer Cynthia Moton, who responded to the shooting and secured the crime scene. U.S. Attorney Machen further commended victim advocate Marci Rinker for her outstanding job in working with the witnesses and family in the case, legal assistant Debra Joyner, who provided critical support work, and members of the litigation support unit, who prepared more than fifty photographic exhibits in the case. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven B. Snyder, who investigated and tried this matter.